

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The above-captioned patent application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action to which the Amendments are responsive. Claims 1-19 are pending.

Claims 1, 7-9, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,678,446 ("Siebelist"). Claims 1-4, 7-12, and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,805,584 ("Chen") in view of Siebelist. Claims 5-6, 13-14, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Siebelist and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,059,139 ("Spinner").

With respect to the rejections, Chen was cited by the Examiner as at least the primary reference in rejecting all pending claims. However, Chen was filed on and therefore has an effective date of July 25, 2003. Submitted with this Amendment and Response is a Declaration of Prior Invention executed by all inventors of the subject application swearing behind this reference with a date of invention at least as early as June 1, 2003, which is a date earlier than the effective date of the reference. The Declaration is supported by attached drawings and screen print outs of the electronic model of the various embodiments disclosed in the subject application which predate the effective date of the reference. Therefore, the rejection of each of the claims based on Chen is respectfully traversed.

With respect to Siebelist, the independent claims 1, 7, and 15 have been amended to incorporate the limitation of dependent claims 3, 4, 6, 10, 12, 14 and 19, respectively, that include the limitations that the post has a barbed portion and that, upon compression, the elastomeric band forms a seal radially outward of the barbed portion of the post. Siebelist has no equivalent element of a post, as the tubular portion 62 of the dielectric mass 22 is used to isolate the contact element 28 from the connector body. Additionally, even if the tubular portion of the dielectric mass is considered a post, the end thereof does not extend within the inner bore to be radially inward of the elastomeric band. Consequently, Siebelist fails to disclose

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each of the limitations of the claims as amended and the rejection is traversed.

New claims 20-29 have been added and are directed to the embodiment of Figures 1-3. In light of the amendments to the previously pending claims and the argument above, it is respectfully submitted that each of the new claims is presently allowable.


In summary, Applicant submits that the pending claims, as amended, are now in an allowable condition and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner wishes to expedite disposition of the above-captioned patent application, he is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0289.

Respectfully submitted,

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